

STATE AGENCIES HONORED FOR INNOVATION IN SMALL BUSINESS & DVBE CONTRACTING

When most of us think about the State of California's small business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) goals, we tend to think first of the businesses: reaching out to them, making sure they get certified, and helping them understand how to do business with the State. But there's a second part of the equation that's equally important: ensuring that State procurement officials know how to find and use those businesses in their contracts.

One of the ways the Department of General Services encourages State procurement officials to achieve their small business and DVBE goals is by hosting an annual State Agency Recognition Awards.

And the Award Goes To...

On October 27, 2005, the Department of General Services (DGS) hosted the 6th Annual State Agency Recognition Awards (SARA) to honor outstanding achievements by State departments in advocating for and contracting with small businesses and DVBEs.

The goal of the SARAs is to honor creative ideas and share those ideas with other departments. The DGS hopes that by sharing innovative ideas, at the awards ceremony, on our Web site, and at outreach events, State procurement officials will be inspired to copy those ideas and develop new ones.

Major winners at this year's awards ceremony included:

- The Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 11, for their Web site promoting Small Business and DVBE awareness
- The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) for matching qualified SB/DVBEs with each of the DCA's needed products and services.
- The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for its innovative survey to identify qualified DVBEs and share that information with each CDCR facility.

To see some of the award winners, read the full text of the nominations and learn more about State agency contracting *Best Practices*, visit www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus/SARA2005.htm